

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00397 041648Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CPR-01 SSC-01 /032 W

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R 041602Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2180

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, DA

SUBJ: SOLVHOJ NAMED COURT CHAMBERLAIN HANS

SUMMARY: THE QUEEN HAS NAMED HANS SOLVHOJ COURT CHAMBERLAIN TO REPLACE COUNT KNUTH-WINTERFELDT WHO IS TO RETIRE SEPTEMBER 30. SOLVHOJ IS THE FIRST SOCIAL DEMOCRAT TO OCCUPY THE HIGH ROYAL POST. END SUMMARY.

1) HANS SOLVHOJ, PRESENTLY GENERAL DIRECTOR OF DENAMARK'S RADIO, WAS NAMED COURT CHAMBERLAIN FEBRUARY 2. SOLVHOJ, 56 YEARS OF AGE, HAS HELD HIS PRESENT POST 15 YEARS. A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT (RIGHT WING) AND COMMONER, HE HAS BEEN MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER) IN EARLIER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND IS THE FIRST SOCIAL DEMOCRAT TO BE NAMED TO THIS POSITION, NORMALLY RESERVED FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARISTOCRACY. HE REPLACES COUNT KNUTH-WINTERFELDT, WHO WILL NOT RETIRE FOR ANOTHER EIGHT MONTHS.

2) PRESS COMMENT HAS CENTERED ON THE QUEEN'S EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE THE MONARCHY AND PRAISED SOLVHOJ'S APPOINTMENT AS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT; THE DANISH NATIONAL RADIO IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF A NATIONAL DEBATE REGARDING THE POLITICAL TILT IT SHOULD HAVE, IF ANY. SO EARLY AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOLVHOJ'S DEPARTURE INSURES A VIGOROUS DEBATE ABOUT WHO HIS SUCCESSOR SHALL BE. SOLVHOJ HIMSELF HAS BEEN

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RESPONSIBLE AND BALANCED IN HIS CONDUCT OF THE

IMPORTANT MEDIA ELEMENT.

3) COMMENT: THE POST SOLVHOJ WILL OCCUPY IS OF IMPORTANCE
TO US INTERESTS. HE IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE
EMBASSY AND FRIENDLY TO THE US.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH00397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-0169
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760284/aaaacvyj.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <15 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOLVHOJ NAMED COURT CHAMBERLAIN HANS SUMMARY: THE QUEEN HAS NAMED HANS SOLVHOJ COURT CHAMBERLAIN
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, DA, (SOLVHOJ, HANS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006